

LCCF2340-30: Christian Doctrine

Spring 2020, Term 203

Monday, 6:00 pm – 7:50 pm

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Mission Statement: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Core Values: The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for this academic year is *Spiritual Vitality*.

- 1. **Doctrinal Integrity**: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and glory of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- **3. Mission Focus**: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- **4.** Characteristic Excellence: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- **5. Servant Leadership**: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Classroom deportment models servant Leadership.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to survey the doctrines of the Christian faith. Students are introduced to the biblical, historical, philosophical, and systematic aspects of theology. Special attention is given to Baptist doctrine.

General Education Competencies (GECs)

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

- 1. Critical Thinking
- 2. Oral Communication
- 3. Written Communication
- 4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GECs #1 & #3.

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified three program Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
- 1. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
- 2. Service and Leadership (both BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
- 3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (both BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3) This course addresses BACM PSLO #3.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

- 1. Understand the biblical-theological elements of fundamental Christian doctrines.
- 2. Apply the principles of theological method to doctrinal positions.
- 3. Communicate a summary and critique of a theologian's doctrinal perspective.

Course Texts

Holy Bible. You may bring any reliable, modern translation.

Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. 3rd ed. Edited by L. Arnold Hustad. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015. Print or digital.

Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. Print or digital.

Turabian, Kate. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013. \$18.00

Course Requirements and Grading (400 points possible + extra credit opportunity)

- Participation: Each student will be required to attend class and to participate in class discussion.
 Class attendance is essential for effective learning.
 (10 points possible)
- 2. Reflective Essays (1 double-spaced page, 250-300 words). Each of nine (9) papers is worth a possible 10 points and is meant to be a creative, reflective essay. Avoid first person ("I, me, my"); simply state things as fact. You may cite names and Bible verses, but please do not include any quotations due to space constraints. This reflective essay is not meant to be a summary of a doctrine but your thoughts on the topic after reviewing the textbook or videos. Reflective essays will only be accepted by the due date. See Rubric for Assessing Reflective Essays below. This assignment relates to GEC #3 and CSLO #1 and #2 (90 points possible)
- 3. Book Review (4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font). Students will review *The Spiritual Condition of Infants*. The review should be 4-5 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12-point font. The review should address issues such as: summary and critique of the author's thesis, arguments, assumptions, method, sources, logic, and style; specific examples of strengths and weaknesses of the book; discussion of its usefulness for the intended audience, how the book contributes to its field, other books which explore the issue, and whether or not you would recommend the book and why. Cite page numbers parenthetically; no footnotes; use quotations sparingly. See **Rubric for Grading Book** Reviews below. *This assignment relates to GECs #1 & #3, and CSLOs #1 & #3.* (80 points possible)
- **4. Research Paper** (8-12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). **This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of the course**. The rubric for assessing this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric. The paper will be a summary and critique of a particular doctrine of a selected theologian. Due in stages. See **Guidelines for Research Paper** below. *This assignment relates to GECs #1 & #3, BAM/BACM PSLO #3, and CSLOs #1, #2, & #3.* (**100 points possible**)
- **5. Final Exam**. The final will be comprehensive and will consist of various types of questions (multiple choice, short essay, T/F, etc.) based on class notes, discussions, and textbooks. *This assignment relates to GEC #1, BAM/BACM PSLO #3, and CSLOs #1-#3*. **(120 points possible)**

Extra credit: Students may present one of their Essays to the class for discussion and defense. The student must provide a paper copy for each student present and be prepared to defend their understanding of the Doctrine they choose. Also, a student may choose a current doctrinal controversy and present the BF&M statement of that doctrine as well as the counter points. After giving a fair assessment of the doctrine, differences etc., the student will discuss their findings in an open forum with the student body. A handout of points/counterpoints must be provided for every student. All Extra Credit opportunities must be cleared with the professor and scheduled to fit in the flow of the semester.

(25 points possible)

Evaluation and Grading: The grading scale as outlined in the Leavell College will be used.

A = 372 to 400 points

B = 340 to 371 points

C = 308 to 339 points

D = 280 to 307 points

F = 279 and below

Course Outline

E 12 = Erickson chapter 12

Week	Date	Topic	Completed Readings	Assignments Due
1	January 27	Course Intro Theol. Sources & Methods	E 1-2	
2	Feb. 3	Revelation- General & Special	E 3-4	Essay 1: "Can a person know God without access to a Bible?"
3	Feb. 10	Revelation-Insp. & Inerrancy	E 5-7	Watch Brunn <u>Presentation</u>
4	Feb. 17	God-Existence	E 8-10	Essay 2: "Are we like or unlike God?"
		God-Trinity	E 11	Submit Theologian & Doctrine for Paper
5	Feb. 24	God-Creation	E 13, 16	Essay 3: "Genesis 1. Days or ages? Does it matter?"
				Reference Summary Due
6	March 2	God-Providence	E 12, 14	Essay 4: "Does God cause events, allow
			Read Craig/Helm article	events, or both?"
7	March 9	God-Evil & Suffering	E 15	Essay 5: "What is the relationship between human freedom and the origin and persistence of sin and evil?"
8	3/16-20	Spring Break		

Week	Date	Topic	Completed Readings	Assignments Due
9	March 23	Man	E 17-19	Bibliography Due
		Sin	E 20-22	Book Review Due
10	March 30	Christ-Humanity Christ-Deity Christ-Union	E 23-25	Essay 6: "In what ways does the humanity of Jesus inform our view of ourselves?"
11	April 6	Christ-Death & Resurrection		Article Summary # 1 Due
12	April 13	The Holy Spirit	E 28-30	
		Election	E 31-34; Read Hankins article	Essay 7: "Does the Holy Spirit gift some believers with miraculous gifts?"
13	April 20	Salvation Accomplished Salvation Applied	E-26-27; E 33-35 Read Newsom article	Essay 8: "What is the gospel?" Article Summary # 2 Due
14	April 27	Church Nature, Polity, Ordinances	E 36-38	Essay 9: "Is formal church membership biblically defensible?"
15	May 4	Last Things- Return of Christ & Millennium Heaven & Hell	E 39-41 E 42 a, b	Research Paper Due
		Review		
16	May 11	Final Exam		

Research Paper - Two Parts

Students will submit an 6-8 page (plus bibliography), double-spaced research paper. The paper is to be a summary and critique of a selected theologian and doctrine. It must properly cite your sources and follow Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, 8th edition for the paper's form (footnotes) and style.

I. First Part: Preliminary assignments in preparation for the Research Paper:

1. Choose a theologian and doctrine - due on February 17. Select one theologian and one corresponding doctrine from the list below (5 points):

Tertullian (ca. 160–235) - Trinity Athanasius (296–373) - Christ, salvation Augustine (354–430) - Trinity, creation, man, sin, salvation, church Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109) - existence of God Thomas Aquinas (1224–1274) - existence of God, salvation John Calvin (1509–1564) - revelation, God, man, salvation Martin Luther (1483–1546) - salvation, church Balthasar Hubmaier (d. 1528) - salvation, baptism Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) - God, original sin, salvation Karl Barth (1886–1968) - revelation, Christ C. S. Lewis (1898–1963) - theodicy, salvation Howard Thurman (1899–1981) - Christology Karl Rahner (1904–1984) - Trinity, salvation Jürgen Moltmann (b. 1926) - theodicy, last things Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928–2014) - Christ Gustavo Gutiérrez (b. 1928) - salvation Clark Pinnock (1937–2010) - inerrancy, God, salvation, Holy Spirit, last things

James H. Cone (b. 1938) - theological method, God, salvation

Marilyn McCord Adams (1943–2017) - Christology

2. Reference Summary – due on February 24.

The Summary must demonstrate working knowledge of your theologian and topic. Consult at least three different types of in-print reference works to learn about your topic. The different types of published reference works include: theological dictionaries, theological encyclopedias, historical or systematic theologies (not including your textbooks), and works of church history. After you have read the three sections or chapters about your topic, write a two-page, double-spaced summary of what you learned about the topic. No footnotes are necessary for this assignment. Mention the major issues, significant personalities, controversies (with dates and places), writings, and theological questions ("Why does this matter?") involved in your topic. List your sources on page three of your summary in Turabian format. See syllabus for due date. **15 points possible**.

3. Bibliography – due March 23.

Find and list at least four primary sources (written by the theologian) and six secondary sources (written about the theologian). Four of those ten sources must be from a peer-reviewed academic journal (*Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, not *Christianity Today*). The secondary sources must have been published in the last 25 years. Be sure to search ATLA through EBSCOHost; please contact the NOBTS library for the login information and passkey; check syllabus for due date; use Turabian format. Submit online. **10 points possible**.

4. Two Article Summaries - First article is due April 6; Second is due April 20.

Find and read two articles (6-page minimum) from a peer-reviewed academic journal from the last 25 years on your topic. Then, write a one-page, single-spaced summary for each article. You will find these through ATLA via EBSCOHost. Please provide **bibliographic information. Submit online. 10 points each = 20 points possible.**

TOTAL points possible for Preliminary Assignments: 50 Points.

II. Second Part: Completed Research Paper (due May 4). The paper must have the following three distinct sections:

Section One: 2–3 pages of **biography** on your theologian. Be sure to include why he was remembered as a notable theologian. What were his most important works? Where did he teach or pastor?

Section Two: 4–6 pages of **summary**. Be sure to include his theological perspective (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, etc.) as you summarize his understanding of the doctrine. Provide examples from primary sources and interact with secondary sources.

Section Three: 3–4 pages of **critique**. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the views that you summarized? Be sure to interact with secondary sources at this point.

The Research Paper will be graded on the basis of its quality as follows:

- Content: The content must be clear, succinct yet thorough. It must be faithful to the position of the theologian and must present a clear summary of the selected doctrine. It must also include an astute theological critique of the theologian. (25 points possible)
- Selection and use of sources: Ten quality sources must be chosen that are relevant to the topic (four primary and six secondary with at least four from peer-reviewed academic journals). They must be used and cited properly. (10 points possible)

- Form: The paper must conform to Turabian format for title page, footnotes, and the works cited page. (5 points possible)
- Style and Grammar: Style refers to the ability to construct clear and meaningful sentences and paragraphs. Grammar refers to the proper use of English, including spelling, punctuation, and syntax. (10 points possible)

TOTAL points possible for Research Paper: 50 Points.

Additional Course Information

1. Attendance Policy

Per the Leavell College Catalog, school policies regarding absences and tardies will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than 9 hours will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one hour of absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period. The student is responsible for contacting the professor if he or she is tardy and the roll has already been taken.

2. Phone/Computer Use

Out of respect for others, students will place cell phones on silent mode during class time. At no time during class should computers, tablets, or smart phones be used for anything other than class notes and assignments. Students using electronic devices for anything else during class will be considered absent. Students needing to make or receive texts or calls should arrange to do so outside of class time. The professor reserves the right to ask students to leave phones/smart phones at home.

- 3. **Assignment Policies:** All assignments are to be submitted as indicated in the *Course Requirements* section. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 5-point penalty and 1 point for each additional day, including weekends, after the due date. *No assignment will be accepted past one week of the original due date.*
- 4. **Writing Style Guide:** Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link:

 $\underline{\text{https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf.}}$

Assignment Formatting are:

- a. In Turabian format (revision 8 or revision 9)
- b. To be written in third person
- c. Created in a 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- d. Include a Turabian-formatted Title Page
- e. Submitted as Word documents (Documents submitted in any other form will not be graded.)
- f. Submitted to the course's Blackboard shell
- 5. **Blackboard/Self-Serve:** The student is responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents, and announcements. The student is also responsible

for maintaining current information and current e-mail address on the Blackboard system and Self-Serve. As Blackboard and Self-Serve do not communicate with one another, students will need to enter updates on both platforms.

- 6. **Netiquette:** Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.
- 7. **Academic Honesty Policy**: All students, whether on-campus, Internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.
- 8. **Plagiarism Policy:** A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
- 9. **Special Needs**: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor to discuss any modifications you may need.
- 10. **Emergency Plan**: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
- 11. **For Technical Assistance:** For general NOBTS technical help, go to: www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

WRITING	4 – Excellent	3 - Good	2 – Meets	1 – Needs	0 – Inadequate
CRITERIA			Requirements	Improvement	-
The student completes well developed and logical assignments.	-Skillful logical organization with a clear line of reasoning	-Clear logical organization with a clear line of reasoning	-Adequate logical organization with some digression	-Some level of logical organization with frequent digressions	-No apparent organization to the paper
	-Effective and smooth transitions	-Competent transitions	-Basic transitions	-Ineffective transitions	-No or poor transitions
The student composes grammatically correct sentences.	-Minimal or no grammatical errors; no major grammatical errors.	-Few minor grammatical errors; no major grammatical errors	-Some grammatical errors; may include one major grammatical error	-Many grammatical errors	-Excessive grammatical entors
The student uses an effective writing style.	-Consistently varied sentences tructure	-Frequently varies sentence structure	-Sometimes varies sentence structure	-Seldom varies sentence structure	-Does not vary sentence structure
	-Communicates concisely	-Rarelywordy	-Occasional wordiness	-Frequently wordy	-Excessive wordiness
	-Proper use of appropriate vocabulary	-Rare use of colloquialisms and clichés	-Occasional use of colloquialisms and clichés	-Frequent use of colloquialisms and clichés	-Excessive use of colloquialisms and clichés
The student incorporates appropriate supporting material.	-Skillful use of credible, relevant sources and/or examples	-Consistent use of credible, relevant sources and/or examples	-Adequate use of credible and/or relevant sources and/or examples	-Attempts to use credible and/or relevant sources and/or examples	-Fails to use credible, re levant sources and/or examples appropriately
The student follows prescribed style guide.	-Detailed attention to the prescribed style guide.	-Consistent use of the prescribed style guide.	-Adequate use of the prescribed style guide.	-Attempts to use the prescribed style guide.	Failure to use the prescribed style guide.
Comments					

CRITICAL THINKING CRITERIA	4 – Excellent	3 - Good	2 – Meets Requirements	1 – Needs Improvement	0 – Inadequate
The student will recognize validity of arguments.	-Skillful ability to distinguish between arguments and unsupported claims -Skillful ability to identify central claim of an argument	-Competent ability to distinguish between arguments and unsupported claims -Competent ability to identify central claimof an argument	-Adequate ability to distinguish between arguments and unsupported claims with some noted confusion -Adequate ability to identify central claim of an argument with occasional inconsistency	-Poor ability to distinguish between arguments and unsupported claims with frequent confusion -Poor ability to identify central claim of an argument with frequent inconsistency	-Inability to distinguish between arguments and unsupported claims -Inability to identify central claim of an argument
The student will analyze arguments .	-Skillful ability to determine components of an argument -Skillful ability to relate an argument to the whole (thesis/position)	-Competent ability to determine components of an argument -Competent ability to relate an argument to the whole (thesis/position)	-Adequate ability to determine components of an argument with occasional mistakes -Adequate ability to relate an argument to the whole (thesis/position) with occasional mistakes	-Poor ability to determine components of an argument with frequent mistakes -Adequate ability to relate an argument to the whole (thesis/position) with frequent mistakes	-Inability to determine components of an argument -Inability to relate an argument to the whole (thesis/position)
The student will critique arguments .	-Skillful ability to evaluate assumptions and reliability of evidence -Skillful ability to evaluate different types of arguments and potential counterarguments	-Competent ability to evaluate assumptions and reliability of evidence -Competent ability to evaluate different types of arguments and potential counterarguments	-Adequate ability to evaluate assumptions and reliability of evidence with occasional mistakes -Adequate ability to evaluate different types of arguments and potential counterarguments with occasional mistakes	-Poor ability to evaluate assumptions and reliability of evidence with frequent mistakes -Poor ability to evaluate different types of arguments and potential counterarguments with frequent mistakes	-Inability to evaluate assumptions and reliability of evidence -Inability to evaluate different types of arguments and potential counterarguments
The student will synthesize arguments. Comments	-Skillful ability to integrate evidence that provides persuasive support for a position and a conclusion	-Competent ab ility to integrate evidence that provides persuasive support for a position and a combision	-Adequate ability to integrate evidence that provides persus ive support for a position and a combision with occasional digressions	-Poor ability to integrate evidence that provides persuasive support for a position and a conclusion with frequent digressions	-Inability to integrate evidence that provides persuasive support for a position and a conclusion

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION	4 – Excellent	3 - Good	2 – Meets	1 – Needs	0 – Inadequate
CRITERIA			Requirements	Improvement	
The student interprets Scripture in light of the original context.	-Has given careful attention to the historical context and demonstrated the context clearly	-Has given attention to the historical context and research is obvious in background thought	-Shows an awareness of the original context of the Scripture	Some level of awareness of context but lacks consistency to the point that argument within the paper is greatly we akened	-Utilization of proof texting
The student applies appropriate hermeneutical principles.	-Addresses a range of interpretive concerns aptly, skillfully, critically, and effectively.	-Shows aware ness of such concerns, addressing most in a consistently appropriate and critically responsible manner.	-Shows awareness of such concerns, addressing some in a consistently appropriate and critically responsible manner	Shows a wareness of only a few of such concerns, addressing them in ways that are problematic, inaccurate, uncritical, or unhelpful	-Displays broad lack of a ware ness of such concerns and/or incompetence in addressing the m.
The student demonstrates a consistent theological approach.	-Demonstrates a consistent theology throughout the presentation with no lapses	-Demonstrates a consistent the ological approach through the paper with only a minor lapse	-Demonstrates a consistent theological approach throughout the paper with several noted lapses	-Demonstrates inconsistencies in the paper to the point that the argument within the paper is weake ned greatly.	-Fails to demonstrate an aware ness of a consistent theological framework for the paper
Comments					

Book Review Grading Rubric for: LCCF2340 Christian Doctrine

	20	16	12	8	4
	4-5 pgs. in length	3 1/2 pgs. in length	3 pages in length	2 pages in length	<2 pages in length
Content	robust explanation and	explanation and critique of	explanation and critique of	explanation and	neither explains nor critiques the author's thesis
		minimal inaccuracies	inaccurate		no accurate details
Organization	_	directly	1		wanders significantly from the topic
S	organized structure	organized structure	organized		no organized structure
Logical Support		examples of the topic	support of the	support of the	no logical support of the topic
Communication	clear meaning	to the reader			incoherent for the reader
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	no visible or significant errors	disturb the reading process	sometimes		errors make reading difficult

Reflective Essay Grading Rubric for: LCCF2340 Christian Doctrine

	4.0	3.2	2.4	1.6	0.8
Content	Nails the topic		Some deviation from topic;	Deviates from topic; Major	Deviates significantly from topic;
	All details accurate	Minimal inaccuracies	Some inaccurate details	inaccurate details	No accurate details
Organization	Highly organized structure	Organized structure	Somewhat organized structure	Unorganized structure	No discernable structure
Logical Support Is evidence presented to support the claim(s)?	Superior logical support of topic or claim(s)	Logical support	Acceptable logical support	Minimal support	No logical support
Communication	Exceptionally clear meaning	Clear meaning	Somewhat clear meaning	Unclear meaning	Incoherent
Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling	No errors	1 error	2 different errors (rather than 2 occurrences of the same error)	3-4 different errors	5 or more errors

Selected Bibliography

- Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2014. **Systematic Theology**.
- Allen, David L., Eric Hankins, and Adam Harwood, ed. *Anyone Can Be Saved: A Defense of "Traditional" Southern Baptist Soteriology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2016. **Soteriology.**
- Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle*. New Studies in Biblical Theology 5. Edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997. **Anthropology**.
- Elwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. **Theological Dictionary**.
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- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Christian Origins and the Question of God, vol. 3. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003. **Christology**.